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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDA-05 AF-10
ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-01 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 ERDE-00 /139 W
----------099481 281632Z /50
P 281521Z OCT 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2427
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 09363

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, US, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS, SIXTH ROUND, DRAFTING GROUP MEETING, OCTOBER 27, 1977
CW MESSAGE NO. 31

1. THE DRAFTING GROUP OF THE US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) MET FOR THE LAST TIME DURING THE CURRENT ROUND OF THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 27. THE US SIDE PRESENTED COMPARISONS OF US AND SOVIET POSITIONS ON DESTRUCTION OF STOCKS (US ITEM 12), WITHDRAWAL (US ITEM 26), ADHERENCE OPEN TO ALL STATES (US ITEM 25), AND NON-INTERFERENCE (US ITEM 24), AND SUGGESTED COMMON LANGUAGE ON EACH ITEM. THE US SIDE DEFERRED PRESENTATION ON DECLARATION OF FACILITIES (US ITEM 11) TO PERMIT ADDITIONAL STUDY.

2. THE LANGUAGE IN PARAS 4, 5, AND 6 BELOW WAS AGREED, AD REFERENDUM. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 3 BELOW, THE SOVIET SIDE SAW NO PROBLEMS UPON FIRST EXAMINATION, BUT WISHED TO STUDY THE LANGUAGE MORE CAREFULLY BEFORE GIVING A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE.
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3. DESTRUCTION OF STOCKS: QUOTE:
THE CONVENTION SHOULD PROVIDE THAT EACH PARTY:

(1) SHALL DESTROY ALL STOCKS OF CHEMICALS AND WEAPONS WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO DECLARATION, AS STATED IN PARAGRAPH (BLANK);

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(2) AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO DESTRUCTION, MAY DIVERT DECLARED STOCKS OF CHEMICALS TO NON-HOSTILE PURPOSES TO THE EXTENT DIVERSION IS JUSTIFIED FOR SUCH PURPOSES. SUCH DIVERSION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE CONTROLS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (BLANK);

(3) SHALL COMPLETE THE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION OF STOCK-PILES WITHIN EIGHT YEARS AFTER THE STATE DEPOSITS ITS INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THERE-AFTER.

(4) IN IMPLEMENTING THE MEASURES SPECIFIED IN THIS PARAGRAPH, SHALL TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT.
END QUOTE.

4. WITHDRAWAL: QUOTE: THE CONVENTION SHOULD PROVIDE THAT ANY PARTY SHOULD, IN EXERCISING ITS NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, HAVE THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CONVENTION IF IT DECIDED THAT EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CONVENTION HAD JEOPARDIZED ITS SUPREME INTERESTS. IT SHALL GIVE NOTICE OF SUCH WITHDRAWAL TO ALL OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION AND TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (BLANK) MONTHS IN ADVANCE. SUCH NOTICE SHALL INCLUDE A STATEMENT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CONFIDENTIAL

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EVENTS IT REGARDS AS HAVING JEOPARDIZED ITS SUPREME INTERESTS. END QUOTE.

5. ADHERENCE: QUOTE: THE CONVENTION SHOULD PROVIDE THAT IT WILL BE OPEN TO ALL STATES FOR SIGNATURE. END QUOTE.

6. NON-INTERFERENCE: QUOTE: THE CONVENTION SHOULD PROVIDE THAT IT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN A MANNER DESIGNED TO AVOID HAMPERING CHEMICAL ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE LIMITATIONS AND PROHIBITIONS CONTAINED IN THE CONVENTION. END QUOTE.

7. US MILITARY EXPERT (BAY) PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO SOVIET REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF US POSITION ON AVOIDING THE USE OF TERMS SUCH AS "CHEMICAL AGENT" AND "SINGLE-PURPOSE": QUOTE: YESTERDAY, THE SOVIET SIDE ASKED WHY THE US SIDE DID NOT USE TERMS SUCH AS "CHEMICAL AGENT" OR "SINGLE-PURPOSE." THIS IS OF COURSE AN IMPORTANT ISSUE RELATING TO THE SCOPE OF A CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION WHICH WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO FORMULATE. LET ME REITERATE THAT WE ARE SEEKING A TRUE DISARMAMENT MEASURE, ONE WHICH IS NOT ONLY ADEQUATE

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FOR TODAY BUT ONE WHICH WILL ALSO STAND THE TEST OF TIME.
FOR THIS REASON WE BELIEVE THAT TERMS WHICH COULD BE THE
CAUSE OF PRESENT OR FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDING MUST BE AVOID-
ED. WE BELIEVE YOU CAN AGREE THAT ANY CHEMICAL WHICH
COULD BE UTILIZED IN CHEMICAL WARFARE, EITHER AT
PRESENT OR AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE, SHOULD BE EITHER
PROHIBITED OR CAREFULLY CONTROLLED.
WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE SIMPLE FORMULATION "CHEMICAL AGENT"
IS ADEQUATE FOR THE PURPOSE I HAVE OUTLINED. FOR EXAMPLE,
THERE IS THE QUESTION OF AGREEING HOW THE TERM "CHEMICAL
AGENT" SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD? WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, A NEW
CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE BE A "CHEMICAL AGENT" IF ONLY ITS

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDA-05 AF-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 09363

DEVELOPER KNEW OF ITS EXISTENCE AND IT HAD NEVER BEEN
USED IN CHEMICAL WARFARE? WOULD A COMMERCIAL CHEMICAL
SUBSTANCE BE A "CHEMICAL AGENT" BEFORE IT WAS DIVERTED
TO CHEMICAL WARFARE PURPOSES? WE BELIEVE THAT THE TERM
"CHEMICAL AGENT" IS THUS AN UNECESSARY QUALIFIER WHICH
COMPLICATES WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO; THAT IS TO ELIMINATE
NOT JUST THE CURRENTLY GENERALLY-RECOGNIZED MEANS OF
CHEMICAL WARFARE, BUT THOSE WHICH COULD BE DISCOVERED OR
USED IN THE FUTURE AS WELL. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR APPROACH
OF RELYING ON THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION, AND CERTAIN
QUANTATIVE CRITERIA, TO IDENTIFY THOSE CHEMICALS WHICH
COULD HAVE UTILITY IN CHEMICAL WARFARE FROM THE VAST
UNIVERSE OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, IS
THE BEST ONE FOR ACHIEVING OUR MUTUAL OBJECTIVE.

TURNING NOW TO THE TERM "SINGLE-PURPOSE," OUR APPROACH

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HERE IS SIMILAR. WE SUBMIT THAT, LITERALLY, THERE CAN BE NO SUCH THING AS A "SINGLE-PURPOSE" CHEMICAL. LITERALLY, "SINGLE-PURPOSE" MEANS ONLY ONE PURPOSE AND NO OTHER. HOWEVER, EVEN SARIN HAS OTHER LEGITIMATE PURPOSES SUCH AS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEANS OF PROTECTION AND IN MEDICAL RESEARCH. THUS, THIS TERM, "SINGLE-PURPOSE," COULD ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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CAUSE MISUNDERSTANDINGS. WE KNOW THAT EXPERTS WHO FOLLOW THE FIELD UNDERSTAND THAT THE TERM IS NOT TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY, BUT THEN NOT EVERYONE WHO WILL COME IN CONTACT WITH THE CONVENTION WILL BE SUCH AN EXPERT. WE BELIEVE IT IS BEST THAT OUR CONVENTION NOT USE TERMS WHICH CAN LEAD TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS. WE BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE, BOTH TECHNICALLY AND POLITICALLY, TO REACH OUR MUTUAL OBJECTIVE WITHOUT USING SUCH TERMS AND THAT THIS IS WHAT WE SHOULD DO. END QUOTE.

8. SOVIET MILITARY EXPERT (CHUGUNOV) ASKED IF IN THE US VIEW THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION APPLIED ONLY TO "ACTIVITIES" AND DID NOT APPLY TO "CHEMICALS". US SIDE RESPONDED THAT IN US VIEW THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION APPLIES BOTH TO "ACTIVITIES" AND "CHEMICALS".

9. FINAL MEETING OF CURRENT ROUND WILL BE CW PLENARY MEETING ON MORNING OF OCTOBER 28. VANDEN HUEVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHEMICAL WARFARE, AGREEMENT DRAFT, NEGOTIATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA09363
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770397-0086
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 759047
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS, SIXTH ROUND, DRAFTING GROUP MEETING, OCTOBER 27, 1977 CW MESSAGE NO. 31
TAGS: PARM, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/16afc924-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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